**Telangana struggling to meet ST quota in police, Andhra Pradesh meets it among officers; both fulfill OBC quotas reveals IJR 2025**

***Some encouraging improvements:***

* Both Andhra Pradesh (10%) and Telangana (13%) record lower than national average vacancy among constabulary and officers.
* Andhra Pradesh records one of the lowest vacancies among the large states among both High Court (19%) and district court judges (12%)
* Telangana records the highest shares of women judges among both High Court (33%) and district court judges (55%)
* Andhra Pradesh continues to spend over Rs. 500 per prisoner daily - the highest in the country.

***Persistent lacunae:***

* In Telangana only 9% women in the police force - one of the lowest in the country and Andhra Pradesh reports 5% women among police officers
* 59% doctors in Telangana were missing and Andhra Pradesh sanctioned no correctional staff.
* Both Andhra Pradesh and Telangana had 1 in every 3 cases in the district judiciary pending for over three years
* Telangana could only provide 59% of the 9 mandatory services by its citizen portal and only 58% police stations in Andhra Pradesh had at least one CCTV

**15 April:** The 2025 India Justice Report (IJR), India’s only ranking of states on delivery of justice in the country, released today, ranks Telangana 1st in Police and 2nd in Judiciary, while overall it was ranked 3rd (2022: 3rd) among the 18 Large and Mid-sized states (with populations of over one crore each). It ranks Andhra Pradesh 4th in Prisons and 5th in Legal Aid while overall it was ranked 2nd (2022: 5th) among the 18 Large and Mid-sized states.

The top overall position was retained by Karnataka, followed by Andhra Pradesh, climbing from fifth in 2022 to second, Telangana (2022 ranking: 3rd), and Kerala (2022 ranking: 6th). Among the seven small states (with populations less than one crore each), Sikkim (2022: 1st) ranked first, followed by Himachal Pradesh (2022: 6th) and Arunachal Pradesh (2022: 2nd).

The India Justice Report (IJR) was first initiated by Tata Trusts, with the first ever ranking published in 2019. This is the fourth edition of the report, in collaboration with partners including the Centre for Social Justice, Common Cause, Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative, DAKSH, TISS–Prayas, Vidhi Centre for Legal Policy, and How India Lives, IJR’s data partner.

Through a rigorous 24-month quantitative research, the IJR 2025, similar to the previous three, has tracked the performance of states in **capacitating their Justice delivery structures** to effectively deliver mandated services. Based on the latest official statistics from authoritative government sources, it brings together otherwise siloed data on the **four pillars of Justice delivery – Police, Judiciary, Prisons, and Legal Aid**. Each pillar was analysed through the prism of budgets, human resources, workload, diversity, infrastructure, and trends (intention to improve over a five-year period), against the state’s own declared standards and benchmarks. This edition also separately assesses the capacity of the 25 State Human Rights Commissions (*see SHRC brief for more*) and consists of essays on mediation and access to justice for persons with disabilities.

Discussing the India Justice Report, **Justice (Retd.) Madan B. Lokur** commented, “*The punishing process of accessing justice begins with the very first encounter an individual has with the system. With our failure to properly equip and train frontline justice providers—police stations, legal aid actors including paralegal volunteers and district courts—we fracture public trust. These institutions are intended to embody our commitment to equal justice. The strength of our entire justice framework rests on these critical first points of contact. The fourth edition of the India Justice Report points out that improvements remain few and far between in the absence of adequate attention given to resources. Alas, the burden continues to remain on the individual seeking justice, and not the state to provide it*.”

**Ms. Maja Daruwala, Chief Editor, India Justice Report**, highlighted, “*As India moves forward into a hundred years of being a democratic, rule of law nation, the promise of rule of law and equal rights will remain hollow unless underwritten by a reformed justice system. Reform is not optional. It is urgent. A well-resourced responsive justice system is a constitutional imperative that must be experienced as an everyday reality available to every citizen*.”

**Andhra Pradesh and Telangana’s Ranks: Pillar Wise**

|  | **Andhra Pradesh** | **Telangana** |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | **IJR 4** | **IJR 1 (2019)** | **IJR 4** | **IJR 1 (2019)** |
| **OVERALL** | **2** | 13 | **3** | 11 |
| **POLICE** | **2** | 5 | **1** | 11 |
| **PRISONS** | **4** | 15 | **7** | 13 |
| **JUDICIARY** | **5** | 13 | **2** | 11 |
| **LEGAL AID**  | **5** | 10 | **10** | 4 |

**Gender and Caste Representation**

Andhra Pradesh records over 10% shortfall among SC officers since 2016 while vacancies among SC officers increased from 5% in 2019 to 11% in 2022 in Telangana. Among ST constables, vacancies in Andhra Pradesh increased from 6% in 2019 to 11% in 2022. In the same category, Telangana, which recorded no vacancies in 2019, now records a 15% shortfall. Among the district court judges, Andhra Pradesh that had a 9% vacancy among SC judges, fulfills the quotas while Telangana reports a 19% vacancy.

Both states report a share of over 50% women in the district courts – Telangana at 55% has the largest share in the country. Telangana outperforms Andhra Pradesh with the largest share of women (33%) in its High Court. In the police, Andhra Pradesh outperforms Telangana with a 22% share of women, the highest in the country whereas Telangana records 9%.

**Vacancies across justice system**

As of 2025, Andhra Pradesh records a 12% vacancy among district judges, one of the lowest in the country and Telangana records 21%. At the High Court level, in 2025, Andhra Pradesh has managed to retain a 19% vacancy among judges since 2022 in addition to registering the largest drop in shortfall (from 51% to 18%) among the High Court staff. Telangana recorded a 29% vacancy among High Court judges and a 24% shortfall among HC staff.

In the police, Telangana records increases in vacancies since Jan 2022. In Jan 2023, Telangana had 30% vacancy among constables, up from 26% and 13% shortfall among officers, up from 7%. Andhra Pradesh, on the other hand, had a 21% vacancy among constables and 10% among officers.

**Police**

Each rural (282 sq.km) and urban police (10.6 sq.km) station in Telangana covers among the lowest areas as compared to Rajasthan where one rural police station covers 646 sq.km and in Gujarat where one covers 60 sq.km. Telangana also reports the lowest workload of 2,608 police personnel per training institute in the country. Telangana also reports over 85% of its police stations with at least one CCTV and women helpdesks.

**Prisons**

Andhra Pradesh remains the state to spend the most on inmates. In 2022-2023, it spent Rs. 2.6 lakh annually per inmate or Rs. 733 daily for an inmate population of 7,200. In the same year, for a similar inmate population of 6,500 Telangana spent Rs. 33,277 annually or Rs. 91 daily. On average, both states record no overcrowding in their prisons and have no prisons that record over 250% occupancy rates. The share of undertrials detained for 1-3 years is also among the lowest in the country - Andhra Pradesh with 7% and Telangana with 8%. Telangana reports 86% of its prisons equipped with video-conferencing facilities while only 72% in Andhra Pradesh had this facility

Among prison staff, Telangana reported the lowest shortfalls (9%) among prison officers while Andhra Pradesh reported a 21% shortfall. Telangana has been the only state since 2017 to report no vacancies among correctional staff. However, Andhra Pradesh has sanctioned no positions for the same since 2017. Andhra Pradesh reports just a 5% shortfall among doctors in 2022 - the lowest in the country - and Telangana had a 59% - one of the highest among states.

**Legal Aid**

Andhra Pradesh and Telangana record over 80% contributions by the respective states towards their total legal aid budget and both record over 100% utilisation in 2022-23. However, while Andhra Pradesh reported 89% utilisation of NALSA Funds, Telangana reported only 61%.

Andhra Pradesh also reported an 8% shortfall among DLSA secretaries, Telangana reported none. Both states record a drop in PLV numbers and report 3 PLVs per lakh population. In Andhra Pradesh one legal service clinic served 121 villages and Telangana there was one clinic for 440 villages.

The IJR 2025 has reiterated both immediate and foundational corrections. It has flagged urgent filling of vacancies and increased representation. To effect irreversible change, it has exhorted that Justice delivery be designated as an essential service.

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2. *Prisons: Prison Statistics India 2022,* National Crime Records Bureau
3. Judiciary: 2024 & 2025- National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG), Court News, Supreme Court of India; eCourts Services; Websites and annual reports of High Courts, Department of Justice
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**ANNEXURE I:**

**OVERALL NATIONAL FINDINGS: AT A GLANCE**

**The ranking of the 18 large-and mid-sized states is:**

| **State** | **Rank 2025** | **Rank 2022** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Karnataka | 1 | 1 |
| Andhra Pradesh | 2 | 5 |
| Telangana | 3 | 3 |
| Kerala | 4 | 6 |
| Tamil Nadu | 5 | 2 |
| Chhattisgarh | 6 | 9 |
| Madhya Pradesh | 7 | 8 |
| Odisha | 8 | 11 |
| Punjab | 9 | 10 |
| Maharashtra | 10 | 12 |
| Gujarat | 11 | 4 |
| Haryana | 12 | 13 |
| Bihar | 13 | 16 |
| Rajasthan | 14 | 15 |
| Jharkhand | 15 | 7 |
| Uttarakhand | 16 | 14 |
| Uttar Pradesh | 17 | 18 |
| West Bengal | 18 | 17 |

**The ranking of the seven small states is:**

| **State** | **Rank 2025** | **Rank 2022** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Sikkim | 1 | 1 |
| Himachal Pradesh | 2 | 6 |
| Arunachal Pradesh | 3 | 2 |
| Tripura | 4 | 3 |
| Meghalaya | 5 | 4 |
| Mizoram | 6 | 5 |
| Goa | 7 | 7 |











| ***BUDGETS FOR JUSTICE AT A GLANCE**** **Legal Aid:** The national per capita spend on legal aid, is a meagre **Rs 6** per annum
* **Prisons:** The national per capita spend on prisons is **Rs. 57**. In 2022-23, the national average spend per prisoner has increased to Rs 44,110 from Rs 38,028 in 2021-22 Andhra Pradesh records the highest annual spend on a prisoner at Rs.2,67,673.
* **Judiciary:** The national per capita spend on judiciary stands at **Rs. 182.** No state spends more than one per cent of its total annual expenditure on the Judiciary.

 * **Police:** The national per capita spend on police is at **Rs. 1,275** which is the highest among the four pillars.
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